

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
February 20, 2007**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lio Francisco, Julie Frazier, Ray Gamma, Cynthia Owens,
Chuck Seymour

STAFF ABSENT: Steve Lee (excused), Jerry Marsalli (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Larry Wolfe, Director of Parks and Recreation
Phil Orr, Youth Activity Center Director

Guests: Bobbi Robinson, Rose Zukas, James Rowen, Genna Tan,
Derek Min

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: A motion was made by Ray Gamma, seconded by Cynthia Owens, recommending that City Council approve the request for a memorial plaque to be placed on a bench within War Memorial Playground in memory of Mary Elizabeth Quigley. The motion includes that the group requesting the plaque pay for the cost of the plaque.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Francisco.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 16, 2007– Approved as written.
- III. SUMMARY OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – The Commission reviewed City Council actions pertaining to Parks and Recreation.
- IV. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION – The Commission received letters supporting a memorial for Mary Elizabeth Quigley, and letters in support of a memorial plaque instead of naming the park in her memory.
- V. COMMISSIONER’S REPORT – Commissioner Gamma attended the Senior Center dedication and visited various city parks and stated how proud he is of the City’s park system.

Commissioner Frazier attended the Senior Center dedication and visited the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club.

Commissioner Owens reported that she is a 30 plus year resident with four children. She has been an active community volunteer and swam competitively for the Santa Clara Swim Club. Commissioner Owens reported on her application to the Commission, including discussing the need to remodel the George F. Haines International Swim Center (I.S.C.) and the fact that the Swim Club will lose the “Grand Prix” swim meet status unless the pool complex is upgraded.

The Commission directed staff to put the I.S.C. project on the March 20, 2007 agenda.

Commissioner Seymour reported that he also attended the Senior Center dedication as well as visited Central Park and Fremont Park. Commissioner Seymour commented on how well maintained our city parks are compared to local cities.

Chair Francisco visited Henry Schmidt Park and Mary Gomez Park.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Art and Wine Festival – Sponsorship Program Review – The Director reported that after meeting with several Commissioners at Central Park, additional sponsor booths will be added to the Festival in an effort to secure additional funding. The Commission will review applicants for Festival proceeds at its April meeting.
- B. Program Report - The Commission reviewed Parks and Recreation programs.
- C. Project Update – The Commission reviewed construction projects within the Parks and Recreation Department.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for Memorial or Park Name at War Memorial Playground in Memory of Mary Elizabeth Quigley – James Rowen gave the Commission an overview of the request to display a memorial plaque and a grove of trees in War Memorial Playground in memory of Ms. Quigley, who tragically died on the former Santa Clara High School grounds, adjacent to the soon to be constructed War Memorial Playground.

The Director reported that a plaque and/or a grove of trees were discussed with Mr. Rowen and the group indicated interest in funding the total costs. Ms. Bobbi Robinson, neighborhood representative for War Memorial Playground, stated that her group recommends maintaining the current name of the playground.

Commissioner Gamma distributed photos he had taken of various plaques in city parks. The Commission discussed approving a plaque in memory of Ms. Quigley.

A motion was made by Ray Gamma, seconded by Cynthia Owens, recommending that City Council approve the request for a memorial plaque to be placed on a bench within War Memorial Playground in memory of Mary Elizabeth Quigley. The motion includes that the group requesting the plaque pay for the cost of the plaque. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Public Presentations – None.

- IX. Adjourned to the next regular scheduled meeting, March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Manager Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by:

Larry Wolfe
Director of Parks and Recreation

Chuck Seymour
Vice Chair